



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2013

**Members Present:**

John Hanieski, Larry Leatherwood, Anne Ganakas, Justin Himebaugh, Robert Wilson, Bob Thelen, Toni Griffin, and Erik Hansen

**Members Absent:**

Richard Watkins

**Staff Members Present:**

Ed Reed

**1. Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by John Hanieski at 4:02 p.m.

**2. Set/Adjust Agenda:**

No motion made.

**3. Approve Minutes – March 20, 2013:**

Anne Ganakas motioned that the minutes be accepted as submitted. Justin Himebaugh supported. Motion carried.

**4. Clinton Township DDA Visit:**

A discussion was held, led by Larry Leatherwood, with regard to the Committee's visit to Clinton Township, which included:

- The Committee's impressions
- Clinton Township's cooperation level
- Clinton Township's sign/identification
- Township cosmetics
- How the EDC could create an environment where businesses are willing to make investments
- Where the EDC should go from here

## **5. Staff Updates and Information:**

Ed Reed reported that the Township Board is committed to the redevelopment of the eastern end of Saginaw Highway as much as the EDC is. A discussion ensued on the following topics:

### **1. DDA's**

- Proposal 1 – Saginaw Hwy., from Waverly Road to Elmwood
- Proposal II – Saginaw Hwy., from Waverly Road to Broadbent
- Benefits
- Timing

The staff report was interrupted for the following conversation:

### **2. Township Board's Goals versus EDC Goals**

- Duplication of efforts
- Formal/cross communications
- Relationship/collaboration
- Issues along the corridor
- EDC capabilities/efforts

Staff report resumed:

### **3. Ribbon cuttings in the last three months**

- Century 21
- Elmwood Staffing Agency
- Lansing Asphalt

### **4. New Businesses in Delta Township**

- Ollie's store (in the old Value City store)
- Regal Theatre to open in May of 2014
- Meijer Distribution Center
- Sienna Healthcare (SLU) behind Art Van
- Dunkin Donuts (in the old BP station on West Saginaw Highway)
- Asian Grocery Store (in old Dexter Hardware building to open in mid August)
- Norplas footings are about to be poured, working with Eaton County Road Commission on turn lanes to improve traffic flow. Plans are to have this plant in operation later this year, which is a very aggressive schedule.

### **5. Road Commission Projects**

- Repaving of Elmwood, which will take most of the summer (section north of the Library will go on a Road Diet – no longer four lanes, there will be two lanes in each direction with a center turn lane and a bike lane)

### **6. Pathway Update**

- The pathway will be extended from Elmwood to Maycroft
- A pedestrian crossing will be put in at Elmwood Road, and probably Creyts as well, which will include flashing lights when someone is in the cross walk

**7. Other Township Information**

- Water mains being replaced throughout the area
- Increase in the number of family homes being built from an average of 3 every month for the last 1 ½ years, went up to six in March, and eight new homes in April.
- Have received inquiries from builders about multi-family housing in the area.
- Ed stated that we need more economic diversification in the area. He is working with Meijer Distribution Center on having a food processor located here, which would cut down on logistics cost.
- He also reported there is one Micro-Enterprise Loan Program application pending. The applicant was recommended to take one more training class, through Lansing Entrepreneur Institute, before the loan goes to the review board. He anticipates the loan will be approved.

**6. Member Comments:**

Erik Hansen thanked Larry Leatherwood for all of his work.

Robert Wilson reiterated that he would like to see communications opened up between the EDC and the Township Trustees.

John Hanieski stated that we are missing out on grants, due to the lack of a downtown area. He asked the EDC Committee members to think about how we can get an area designated as downtown in Delta Township, and what area would be best for the Township for discussion at a future meeting.

**7. Other Business:**

Anne asked if there was anything on the Fannie May property. Ed stated that the gas was shut off on May 28<sup>th</sup>, so demolition could occur at any time. He has also contacted the property owners about keeping the grass cut.

Larry Leatherwood stated that he would attend the Township Board meeting as Chair of the Taskforce and let them know that the EDC is here and are willing to work cooperatively with them to do whatever needs to be done. John Hanieski approved.

**8. Set Next Meeting Date (Sept. 4, 2013):**

John Hanieski stated that the next meeting is set for 4 p.m. on September 4, 2013.

**9. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned 5:07 p.m.